



January 4, 2019

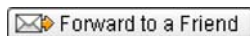
**In this issue:**

- New commissioners take office
- Commissioners pass 2019 budget
- County offices closed for MLK holiday
- Recycle your tree at Bring One for the Chipper
- Order plants and trees at the UGA Extension plant sale
- Buy flood insurance in case of disaster

**Dear Homeowner,**

As a resident of Gwinnett County, you know there is always a lot going on in the community.

Gwinnett County Government would appreciate your help keeping your neighbors informed by sharing the following information through your homeowner association newsletter, website, and emails and by talking to your friends and family.



**What's new on TVgwinnett?**

Gwinnett County brings you the latest news and happenings about your community through Eye on Gwinnett, our bi-weekly news program.



**What you'll see in this episode:**

- Commissioners dedicate Bicentennial Plaza at former Fire Station 15 site in Lawrenceville
- Police, sheriff receive grants
- Scenic Highway to be widened
- Scheduled water rate increase being implemented
- Computer classes for seniors offered
- Septic tank maintenance class set
- Library delivers books to homebound residents for free

**Gwinnett has two new commissioners effective January 1**

Gwinnett County's two new commissioners took office effective [January 1](#).

District 2 Commissioner [Ben Ku](#) and District 4 Commissioner [Marlene Fosque](#) took the ceremonial oath of office in late December at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center amid friends and well-wishers. Commission terms are four years long.



Ku is a software and mobile app developer, and Georgia Tech graduate. He also graduated from Gwinnett 101 Citizens Academy. He received the County's Distinguished Service Award for Most Volunteered Hours in 2017. He also serves in the Mentor Jackets program.



After 20 years in health insurance industry, Fosque retired from Aetna Inc. in 2017. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree from Shorter University, and a Master of Public Administration degree from Regent University. She moved to Gwinnett County in 2003. She served as an elections poll manager and completed Community

Emergency Response Team training in 2015. View Commissioner Ku's and Commissioner Fosque's swearing-in ceremony [here](#).

**Gwinnett commissioners approve 2019 budget**

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners voted to approve a \$1.8 billion budget for 2019 at its January 3 meeting.

The budget focuses on public safety, retention of employees, and maintenance of equipment and facilities. The \$1.82 billion budget as proposed is about 4.8 percent higher than 2018. It includes a \$1.39 billion operating budget and \$438 million for capital improvements, including SPLOST-funded

projects. The budget focuses on funding to maintain core county services such as police and fire protection, jail, courts, roads, transit, and water. Additions for new or ongoing initiatives reflect priorities set by the Board of Commissioners last spring.



The fiscal blueprint adds more police officers, sheriff's deputies, and positions for Fire and Emergency Services. It includes expanding transit and improving roads as well as the airport. Visit [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com) to view the 2019 budget highlights presentation and watch a video on the budget.

#### Gwinnett government offices closed for MLK holiday on January 21

All Gwinnett County government offices with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of the county, will be closed Monday, January 21 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. County offices will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, January 22. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the holiday and trash and recycling collections are scheduled as normal.

The Gwinnett United Ebony Society will host its 17<sup>th</sup> parade starting on Langley Drive in Lawrenceville at 10:00am and ending at Moore Middle School, located at the intersection of Lawrenceville Highway and Johnson Road. The parade theme is "Leadership: You are the Difference." To learn details on parking and lineup information, visit the Gwinnett United Ebony Society [webpage](#).

#### Bring One for the Chipper set for January 26



Drop off your undecorated Christmas tree at a select fire station to be taken to the annual Bring One for the Chipper event to be turned into mulch.

You can drop off natural Christmas trees through January 20 to any of [28 fire stations](#) in Gwinnett County. The trees will be chipped into mulch for use at County parks. Recycling your Christmas tree saves precious landfill space and provides an easy and environmentally conscious way to dispose of your old tree. The event is sponsored by Gwinnett Clean &

Beautiful in partnership with Gwinnett County.

Visit [www.gwinnettcbo.org](http://www.gwinnettcbo.org) to see a list of all drop-off sites or register to volunteer for the chipping event scheduled for January 26 from 8:00am to 11:00am at Bethesda Park at 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville.

#### UGA Extension plant sale continues through March 6

The UGA Extension Gwinnett office's popular annual plant sale kicks runs through March 6, and the plant experts are offering a whole host of fruit shrubs and trees.

You can eat organically with your own blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, Goji berries, and pecans by ordering online. The plant experts also offer landscape plants.



You must pick up your prepaid order on March 14 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds at 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville. No orders are shipped. For order forms or for more information, visit [www.ugaextension.org/gwinnett](http://www.ugaextension.org/gwinnett), or call 678.377.4010.

#### Protect yourself from flood damage

Did you know your homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage?

Only federal flood insurance reimburses you for flood damage to your property. For information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program and flood insurance, please call 1.800.427.4661 or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

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